

November 25, 2013



An interview with:

COACH KINGSBURY

Q. Coach, your last game against Texas, you come out with a 42-38 victory. Can you talk about that day?

COACH KINGSBURY: Yeah, the main thing I remember is it was Senior Day, so last time we're going to play in that stadium. I just remember the seniors wanted to go out with a victory. So to spend that day getting that done with that group of guys was special.

Q. Speaking of quarterbacks, have you made a decision in terms of who will start Thursday and is that something you'll announce?

COACH KINGSBURY: I have not. We'll figure that out and let them try it out Thursday.

Q. Have you talked to guys about what it feels like to beat Texas and play Texas?

COACH KINGSBURY: No, just obviously, more than anything to play on Thanksgiving night the big game on is a big deal. They need to embrace that and enjoy that moment.

Q. Can you talk about that a little bit getting to watch Texas every year, what's it mean to be on that Thanksgiving stage?

COACH KINGSBURY: It's a great opportunity for our university and our kids to show what they can do to go out there in the last game and hopefully play our best game of the year.

Q. How was the bye week?

COACH KINGSBURY: It was good. Got a lot of reps for the quarterbacks. Guys that have made position changes and things of that nature, got them a bunch of reps, which we desperately needed.

Q. Are you choosing between three quarterbacks or between two?

COACH KINGSBURY: Yeah, they're all three healthy. So it will be between one of those three and see how it goes.

Q. Coach, does the weather affect your preparations this off week? Do you have to make any adjustments over the next couple days because of the snow on the ground or the ice or do you just go out there?

COACH KINGSBURY: No, we had a tractor out there moving it off which took a little while yesterday, but we got it done. It's been fine. It is what it is. We practice outside for a long time up here.

Q. Have you kind of chimed in on the defensive side of the ball? During the bye week, did you guys address some of that to try to get stops?

COACH KINGSBURY: Yeah, we've been trying to get stops. We've just got to find a way to do it. We've got to put our players in position. That's when those guys have to make plays. The missed tackles was concerning and we got back to the basics of that. We'll see how it goes Thursday.

Q. Have you noticed changes in their defense?

COACH KINGSBURY: Yeah, schematically it's a lot different. It appears he's had kind of a calming effect. He's been around a lot of football. They're playing really good defense since he's taken over and won a bunch of games. So very talented group.

Q. What's the difference schematically?

COACH KINGSBURY: I would say Manny was a lot more exotic and Coach Robinson brings different looks but not as much as Manny did.

Q. The farther that Michael goes away and past the injury (No microphone) since he's gotten more reps and farther away from the injury, are you seeing improvement in him now?

COACH KINGSBURY: Yeah, he's done a good job. The reps he does get, he's taking advantage of them. I think mentally is the toughest part, coming back and preparing to be the starter when you haven't been for that long. He's a competitive kid, and I know he wants to be out there.

Q. What is your thought on talking back to the conditions of the snow and everything and building the indoor practice facility and where that ranks on your list?

COACH KINGSBURY: You know, like I said, we practiced out here a long time without one. So that's more of a curvy-type question, so we'll make do with what we have. We've won a lot of games out here and we play outside so...

Q. Do you anticipate that they're going to hand the ball off against you because of what they've seen in the last four games?

COACH KINGSBURY: I would think so. They were great stable backs, and really good O-line, so I would expect that to be coming often and early.

Q. What is the status of Beau Carpenter, Kramer, guys like that?

COACH KINGSBURY: Yeah, I expect Kramer to be back. Beau is still waiting to see on him. But I expect Kramer to be back and kicking. That will be good. He's done a good job for us all year on his kickoff, so we're happy to have him back.

Q. Any trickeration plays?

COACH KINGSBURY: No, should be just a base game plan and see how it goes.

Q. (No microphone)?

COACH KINGSBURY: I do. I think it's a neat deal for our players and our staff to go down there. Any time you get to showcase your university on a national stage on a big night, that's a great deal for us.

Q. What do you remember about your playing days at DKR?



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COACH KINGSBURY: They weren't great. Coach Brown has done a tremendous job down there. We've had some tough days, but it's a cool atmosphere, great stadium, great fan support down there. So I think it will be fun for our players.

Q. Did you have any influence on the Lone Star Pride jersey this year?

COACH KINGSBURY: Not a lot. Just okayed some things and nicked some things. But I really like the look. I think it's a good statement for our team.

Q. Do you think the game is more important for the exposure it gets for the school and helps recruiting? I mean, as much as it is for you going down there?

COACH KINGSBURY: I do. I think as many eyes as you're going to have on you in the state especially after watching that game Thanksgiving, I think it's big for our university.

Q. What are your thoughts on the rivalry trophies?

COACH KINGSBURY: Yeah, this will be the first one, I guess, that I've really known about. I think it's fun for the fan bases.

Q. Can you just talk about the opportunity that awaits you guys Thursday? If you guys can win, it can really change how everybody views the season?

COACH KINGSBURY: Yeah, there are a lot of games that could have changed the way people viewed this season. When you lose four in a row, that's how it goes. But to us, it's an opportunity to play our best game, and we've been waiting to do that.

Q. (No microphone) against Baylor.

COACH KINGSBURY: He should play. Trey has had a good week of practice, and they've had his hand padded up, and he should play.

Q. (No microphone)?

COACH KINGSBURY: I'm not sure exactly what he did. I just have seen him out there with a pad on it.

Q. (No microphone)?

COACH KINGSBURY: I'm not sure. That all happens on that Sunday after, so it will just be

good to end the season with a winning conference record, which hasn't happened around here in a few years.

Q. Could you talk about Coach Brown a little bit and maybe what he's meant for the Big 12 and how he's represented the university and how he's gone down there and maybe how tough it is?

COACH KINGSBURY: Yeah, he's an incredible coach. It is a tough deal for him in that I don't think people remember where they were at before he got there and what he's done for that program. So it's kind of be careful what you wish for to an extent, because the impact he's had on Texas football and the University of Texas and their success, it's really incredible. You ask any high school coach, the way he treats each and every one with respect, I couldn't say enough good things about him. Having my dad as a high school coach, the interactions he had with my dad and the way he treated us were incredible.

Q. Did Washington practice last week?

COACH KINGSBURY: He did not, but he should be ready to go today. SO I'd expect him up and ready to play.

Q. (No microphone)?

COACH KINGSBURY: He is not. He is not on the team. So moving forward it's something we'll have to evaluate with him.

Q. (No microphone)?

COACH KINGSBURY: Team rules.

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An interview with:

**JACE AMARO
KERRY HYDER**

Q. Do you feel like you guys used the off week to your advantage?

JACE AMARO: Yeah, we went against good on good most of the week, and I think that helped us a lot getting back into game situations and not just going against the scouts and playing against each other. So I think we took advantage of that. The defense looks good, offense is running better, and people say that -- I mean we lost the last four games, but we're really in almost every single one of them.

OU we had a chance to tie at the end of the game, Oklahoma State we chance to take the lead in the third quarter. Kansas State we cut it to ten point, and Baylor we had a chance to go up 27-7. The tell tale of the story, this whole year we've been one mistake away in every game from taking full momentum in every single game. We know how good of a team we are. We had a chance to have a better season than what we've had so far. And I think this bye week really helped us realize that.

Q. Did you have a chance to heal up after everybody was banged up?

JACE AMARO: Yeah, I just wish we had a bye week between a couple games in conference. The bye weeks help a lot with injuries and stuff like that and us settling everything down. We feel like we did a great job taking advantage of the bye week and getting everyone rested and not giving too many people too many reps.

Q. What do you think the Key is to go down there to Boston to take the crowd out and

also have your defense stop the running game?

JACE AMARO: For offense, we just haven't put the defense in good positions. I think we're one of the last place teams in giving the ball away on offense and we've just had too many penalties that have killed our drives in bad situations. As an offense, we just need to make sure that we control the ball. We move the ball very well every single game this season. I feel like no one's been able to stop us when we don't shoot ourselves in the foot.

I think the offense to tell the defense if we just move the ball and get drives going, as long as we keep moving the ball, I think the defense has a good shot at playing their best game. It's when we turn the ball over and put them in bad situations is when they struggle a little bit.

Q. You see it from that part of the stage, watching them for so long, what's it mean to be part of that Thanksgiving game?

JACE AMARO: Yeah, that's a game you watch every single Thanksgiving. It's a great opportunity to go out there and show the nation one last time that we're a great team. Show them how good of a season we've had and the players that we have and the coaches that we have. I think we're going to take full advantage of it.

Q. What would it mean for a win for you personally?

JACE AMARO: The coaches are going to make a big emphasis that when you beat them, especially in Austin, you're kind of a celebrity in Texas. For the remainder of the season, it's our last game. If we win these last two it's going to get us some momentum going into next season. I think that winning against Texas is huge because you always want to finish strong and I think they're a great team and it's a rivalry. So I think we need to get that done.

Q. How much has the four-game skid left the mind of the team?

JACE AMARO: You know, like I said, we just feel like we've had a chance to win every single game. It's not like we got blown out from the beginning. We were down 21-0 against Oklahoma State. We came back, and like I said, we had a chance to take the lead in the third quarter. The defense did their job, got 3 and out. We go 3 and out, and they take a punt return to the 1-yard line. So I think we're a great team. We know that we're a great team. It's just we've had a lot of mishaps and things that just didn't go our way. And we just need to learn. We're a young team too, and we just need to learn to make sure we don't have those special teams errors and turnovers.

So I think with the four-game skid it hasn't bothered us too much. We just need to know that we need to execute and take advantage of games when we have them in our hands.

Q. What have you noticed about how Texas defense plays in your time playing against them?

JACE AMARO: From what we've seen they like to play a lot of man. They feel like they have the athletes to guard receivers one-on-one, and we're hoping that they do that. We feel we have the athletes to take advantage of that. We've done a great job of when people play man-to-man against us, it's just one of those teams sit back and let us make the mistakes is when we struggle a little bit. But either way we feel we have a great game plan going in, and we'll execute as well as we can.

Q. Is there something this season that you see in them that's maybe different from games in the past that you've played against them?

JACE AMARO: They kind of run the same scheme. So we're just going to go out there and play like we have been.

Q. The defensive coordinator switch didn't change anything?

JACE AMARO: I don't think it's too drastic. They might be in a little better position. But other than that, I don't think so.

Q. You're playing your last regular season game against Texas?

JACE AMARO: You've just got to take it day by day and see what happens. I'm still -- I love

this place, and my mind is on Texas Tech football, and that is the only thing I'm worried about is playing and keep on winning and performing the best I can. Nothing else matters to me right now. Whatever happens later is what's going to happen. I'm just playing for my teammates and my coaches and to finish off strong and go 9-4 for the rest of the season.

Q. How do you feel about the rivalry trophy?

JACE AMARO: Yeah, you always want to finish strong, especially when you're playing Texas. You especially want to beat them.

Q. How much of a win in Texas could rewrite the script here and take out the bad taste in your mouths after a four-game losing streak?

JACE AMARO: Yeah, we haven't won down there in like 16 years, I think. If we do win, well, it would definitely end the season on a great note. In the beginning of the season you're always circling these guys because this is the big in-state rivalry game and it's our last game, and you want to finish strong. If we get a chance to win this game, it's definitely going to have a lot of momentum going into the bowl week.

Q. The majority of the staffs played in this game. Is it different than other staffs you've worked with?

JACE AMARO: Oh, yeah, you could tell the fire they had in the preparation week. Like Coach Kingsbury said, none of these guys have beaten Texas in Austin. And we could be the first ones to do it in a long, long time.

So I think we have a great opportunity. They're a great team. We feel we're a great team, and we match up well against them, so we're going to see how it goes.

Q. You guys started fast against Baylor. Do you anticipate with everything on the line you'll start fast again?

JACE AMARO: Yeah, that's our goal to start fast. We felt like we jumped on Baylor pretty well. We have a chance to go 27-7. If we take that lead, I don't think there is any turning back after that. We'll have a full advantage. The crowd was into it. We're going to do the same and try to get the crowd out of it in Austin take advantage of

it really quickly, so...

Q. Kerry, how do you feel coming out of the bye week with your team?

KERRY HYDER: I feel good. I think we needed that week to refocus and really focus on the task at hand. We kind of lost our swagger, I feel like the last four weeks. We need to be able to take a step back and recharge ourselves. It's really going to help us out this week.

Q. Being from Austin for so many years and watching A&M and Texas play Thanksgiving, what's it mean to you to be on that stage this year?

KERRY HYDER: It means a lot. I remember growing up being with the entire family. We'd watch the Cowboys game early in the day and wait for later that night for the Texas-A&M game. It's crazy that people will be watching me on Thanksgiving night, so I'm definitely looking forward to it.

Q. What sort of adjustments have you made to try and be a lot tougher?

KERRY HYDER: Well, just tackling, assignment football, just practicing the little things with football. The things you kind of forget about toward the end of the season.

So we just tried to really go back to the basics, be it the steps and how to leverage people and tackle them and tackling drills. So we just focused on the little things this week.

Q. Jace said you guys were good on good last week. Was that good for the defense to do that?

KERRY HYDER: Yeah, our offense is as potent at anybody's offense in the country. So to go against that type of competition and practice will definitely help us for the game.

Q. How badly do you want this to be your final Big 12 game?

KERRY HYDER: I definitely want to win it. But it's not just about going home and getting the W. But we want to break this losing streak. We want to have momentum going into the bowl game. That's what my focus is. It's not me going home after the last game. That's not where my head set is right now.

Q. Is there a better team to break the streak against?

KERRY HYDER: Yeah, the stage is set up for us. You can't pick a better stage. Thanksgiving night in Austin. Definitely for me growing up five minutes from the stadium, it will definitely be a moment to remember.

Q. How much family do you have?

KERRY HYDER: That depends on my teammates. I'm trying to get as many tickets as possible, so hopefully my teammates help me out with that this week.

Q. How important do you think it is to take the crowd out early? Do you think the crowd is not as much a factor down there?

KERRY HYDER: Anytime you go on the road in the Big 12 it's going to be tough. I think they have 100-something thousand people. So it's not going to be quiet no matter how you look at it. It will be a rowdy crowd, especially Thanksgiving night I expect everybody to come out and fill all the seats. So when you go into the Big 12, you have to come down on mistakes when you're on the road and try to play mistake-free football.

Q. Have you seen a change in the focus of your teammates with the bye week practices and the missed assignments? You probably don't see them that big into a game, but can you see any difference this week?

KERRY HYDER: Definitely. I guess we always kind of felt like we'll get it done, we'll get it done, and we lost four straight. So to take a step back and see it's not going to get done in a game unless we handle this in practice. So just to see the guys step up and really take this to heart and take advantage of this bye week has been good to see.

Q. Has it been difficult repping in this kind of weather?

KERRY HYDER: We've got our work in, being in Lubbock, you know the weather can change within a day. So haven't really made much change. We've been able to get good work in even with the snow.

Q. What have you noticed in past games against Texas with their offense?

KERRY HYDER: They've run the ball. Since I've played them, I played them the last two years, they've tried to run the ball on us and with

us giving the run at the past four weeks, I expect them to come out and try to pound us with the run this week.

Q. Have you noticed anything different about (No microphone)?

KERRY HYDER: I see more stretch running, outside zone stuff instead of more downhill in the past couple years I've seen. So I expect them to be more zone and more stretched in this week.

Q. Coach Brown said last week at the earlier part of the week he was giving the starters some reps to try to rep some of the younger players. When did they start playing you guys again?

KERRY HYDER: It was really the next day or the same day. He got us some rest to be able to get our legs back. We have put in a lot of plays this season. But he didn't really let us -- he let us get our legs back. But we had to get right back in it and get back in the groove of things.

Q. Do you know Johnson Gray?

KERRY HYDER: Johnson Gray? I'm not sure. Whoever is back there, that's who we'll play against.

Q. (No microphone)?

KERRY HYDER: No.

Q. Do you enjoy doing this?

KERRY HYDER: I feel I've gotten better every time I've been up here. I've never been an interview guy. But the past couple years Blayne has given me more responsibility with this, so this is finally my last Monday press conference.

Q. Coach given you any advice or tips about Malcolm Brown?

KERRY HYDER: Oh, no, he hasn't. I haven't talked to him about him. He's a good running back. I figure all good running backs, you put a hat on them and gang tackle them. That's how I feel like. If we swarm to the ball, we'll be able to contain them better.

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